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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
7 October 1955

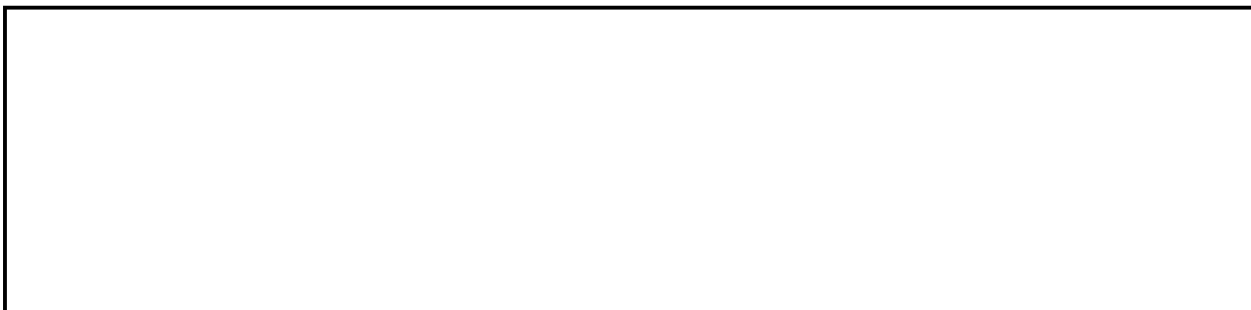
TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Brazilian Election Returns Intensify Threat of Coup

With nearly half the votes counted from Brazil's 3 October presidential election, Juscelino Kubitschek has pulled out in front by a steadily increasing margin. He has about 34 percent of the votes, while Adhemar de Barros has 30 percent; General Juarez Tavora, 28; and Plinio Salgado 8. Kubitschek's Communist-linked running mate, Joao Goulart, now has about 43 percent of the votes for vice president, while the conservative Milton Campos has 41 percent. The chances of Kubitschek's being finally overtaken by Barros depend on the latter's polling an extremely heavy vote in the interior, which is still largely unreported.

According to Brazilian law, the presidential candidate who wins a plurality is considered elected. Getulio Vargas, who aroused strong animosity among influential groups, took office after winning only 49 percent of the vote in 1950. A proposed constitutional amendment to throw the election into Congress if the winner failed to obtain an absolute majority was defeated on 1 September 1955.

The superior Electoral Court has jurisdiction over election results, which can be challenged only by one of the political parties. One such challenge has already been made in a small district of Minas Gerais. These court decisions are usually much delayed and have rarely reversed even a local election.



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